

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 CU-02 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 /103 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9932

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY MITI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORKIJDIF

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9442

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

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SUMMARY: AROUND THE COUNTRY, ALL REPORTEDLY IS STILL QUIET. A CONGEN BOMBAY FSL HAS LEARNED THAT ELEMENTS OF THE OPPOSITION ARE PLANNING A NATIONWIDE AGITATION JULY 16 TO 26. BOMBAY PARTICIPANTS REPORTEDLY PLAN TO MAKE ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECHES THUS COURT-ING ARREST. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF ANY SUCH PLANS. TALK CONTINUES IN GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS PARTY CIRCLES OF REVISING THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THE STRONG EXECUTIVE U.S. AND FRENCH MODELS. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO HAVING THE FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BECOME A "CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY" TO EXAMINE THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION. IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE THE INDIAN PRESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY STERILE, A NUMBER OF UNDERGROUND PAPERS ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ORGANIZED. THE UNIVERSITY TERM WILL BEGIN ON JULY 16 AND A NUMBER OF ARRESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY. POLICE ARE STATIONED AT DELHI UNIVERSITY "TO MAINTAIN ORDER." A HOME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAS STATED THAT THOSE DETAINED UNDER THE EMERGENCY ARE IN "NORMAL HEALTH." THE CPI IS ACTIVELY PUSHING THE IDEA OF JOINT ACTION WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE RIGHT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CPI IS DOING SO OUT OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF MRS. GANDHI'S POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

1. EXCEPT FOR A FIRE IN MADRAS OF THE FOURTEEN-STORY LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION BUILDING (THE TALLEST STRUCTURE IN THE CITY), THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPEARS TO BE QUIET ALTHOUGH SMUGGLERS, PROFITEERS, AND SOME POLITICAL ARRESTS CONTINUE. ARSON IS SUSPECTED IN THE MADRAS FIRE, AND THE BROADCAST PRESS IS POINTING THE FINGER AT THE ANAND MARG. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS CREDITED WITH REDUCING THE CRIME RATE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

2. A CONGEN BOMBAY LOCAL EMPLOYEE HAS LEARNED FROM SOURCES BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE THAT OPPOSITION FORCES ARE ORGANIZING A NATIONWIDE AGITATION TO BEGIN JULY 16 AND PEAK ON JULY 26. THE BOMBAY PORTION, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS S. K. PATIL AND GOVIND RAO DESPHANDE, ALLEGEDLY WILL START ON THE 16TH WITH PATIL'S MAKING AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECH LEADING TO HIS ARREST. SIMULTANEOUSLY, OTHER LEADERS WILL DO THE SAME IN OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY, AND THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED ON SUC-

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CEEDING DAYS BY OTHER SPEAKERS, ALL OF WHOM EXPECT TO BE ARRESTED. THEY REPORTEDLY PLAN TO DO THIS AT LUNCHTIME TO ATTRACT THE GREATEST ATTENTION. THE LEADERS ARE HOPING FOR A CRESCENDO ON JULY 26 WITH A NATIONWIDE DISPLAY TAKING THE FORM OF POT BEATING, STICK BEATING, ETC., THE KIND USED SUCCESSFULLY IN GUJARAT AGAINST FORMER CHIEF MINISTER CHIMANBHAI PATEL. (COMMENT: IF THESE OPPOSITION PLANS ARE KNOWN TO A CONGEN LOCAL, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN TO THE AUTHORITIES.)

ALL OUR SOURCES AGREE THAT SOCIALIST PARTY PRESIDENT GEORGE FERNANDES HAS NOT BEEN ARRESTED BUT HAS GONE UNDERGROUND. A LETTER WRITTEN IN HIS NAME, IN EFFECT A CALL TO ARMS, IS CIRCULATING.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION IN GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS PARTY CIRCLES CONCERNING ALTERING THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION WITH THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONS MOST OFTEN CITED AS USEFUL MODELS. ON JULY 7, THE MINISTER FOR SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION, R. K. KHADILKAR, TOLD THE PRESS IN MAHARASHTRA THAT HE FAVORED A "CONSTRUCTIVE REMODELING" OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, EMPHASIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES AS USED IN FRANCE AND THE U.S. BOMBAY INDUSTRIALIST NAVAL TATA TOLD US THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO DELHI SEVERAL MINISTERS RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM AND THAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO MAKE THE EXECUTIVE IN INDIA LESS DEPENDENT ON THE LEGISLATURE. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSEHOLD HAS TOLD US THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO HAVING THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, SCHEDULED TO MEET JULY 21, BECOME A "CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY" TO EXAMINE THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION.

4. PROVIDING FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HER SENSITIVITY TO PUBLIC CRITICISM, MRS. GANDHI HAS CAUSED AN ORDER TO BE ISSUED BANNING THE EXHIBITION OF A HINDI LANGUAGE FILM ENTITLED, "AANDHI," FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS. THAT THE TITLERHYMES WITH GANDHI IS PROBABLY NO MERE COINCIDENCE, FOR THE FILM IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A VERY FLATTERING TAKE-OFF ON THE LIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. THE INDIAN PRESS UNDER CENSORSHIP IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY LESS INTERESTING AND LESS INFORMATIVE. CONSEQUENTLY, A NUMBER OF UNDERGROUND PAPERS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO APPEAR OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ORGANIZED. THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE "STATES-CONFIDENTIAL

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MAN," C. R. IRANI, SAYS THAT HE IS CONTEMPLATING SUCH A PUBLICATION DESPITE THE FACT, AS HE PUT IT, "AN ARREST WARRANT NOW HANGS OVER MY HEAD."

6. UNIVERSITIES ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THE NEW TERM JULY 16 WITH THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPENING ON THE 15TH. THERE ARE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT ARRESTS WERE MADE AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY EARLY LAST WEEK. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT POLICE ARE STATIONED AT DELHI UNIVERSITY ALLEGEDLY TO "MAINTAIN ORDER" AND PREVENT "EVE TEASING."

7. THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA PROMULGATED AN ORDINANCE JULY 10 INDEFINITELY POSTPONING UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

8. RESPONDING TO RUMORS THAT SOME OF THE PERSONS DETAINED UNDER

THE EMERGENCY WERE SERIOUSLY ILL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME MINISTRY TOLD THE PRESS ON JULY 12 THAT ALL WERE IN "NORMAL HEALTH."  
(COMMENT: RUMORS CONCERNING J. P. ARE REGULARLY CIRCULATING IN DELHI, BUT WE HAVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT HE IS IN SERIOUS DANGER AT THIS TIME.)

9. THE CPI HAS SEIZED UPON THE EMERGENCY TO ADVANCE AGAIN THE IDEA OF UNITED ACTION BY THE CONGRESS, THE CPI AND OTHER "LEFT AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES" AGAINST THE "FORCES OF THE RIGHT REACTION AND IMPERIALISM." A CPI CENTRAL SECRETARIAT SESSION JULY 3 SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR "JOINT POLITICAL RALLIES AND WORK" TO ADVANCE PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC PROGRAMS. WHEN WE CALLED A SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S ATTENTION JULY 11 TO THE CPI'S HASTE TO MAKE POLITICAL USE OF THE EMERGENCY AND PARTICULARLY ITS PARTICIPATION WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY IN THE MOZAMBIQUE (AFRICA DAY) CELEBRATION, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CPI LEADERSHIP FELT THAT REAL POSSIBILITIES NOW EXISTED FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY, ESPECIALLY IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC REFORM. (COMMENT: OUR OWN INTERPRETATION OF THE CPI'S URGINGS FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH THE CONGRESS PARTY IS THAT THEY ALSO REFLECT SOME DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE DIRECTION MRS. GANDHI INTENDS TO TAKE AT THIS POINT. OBVIOUSLY, THE CPI DESIRES TO EXERT AS MUCH INFLUENCE ON HER AND HER AIDES AS THE NEW SITUATION PERMITS. THE CPI'S OPPORTUNISM IN THE PAST DAYS HAS ALSO LED IT TO MUTE SOMEWHAT ITS CRITICISM OF THE CPM, ELEMENTS OF WHICH IT WOULD LIKE TO WIN OVER. END COMMENT.)  
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## Message Attributes

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